

PRESS RELEASE



UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN MADRID

U.S. Embassy Celebrates Marriage Equality in Spain and the United States

On July 2, 2015, the U.S. Embassy in Madrid celebrated Pride Month with an event that commemorated the 10th anniversary of Spain's marriage equality act and the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to uphold the right to marriage for all Americans.

In a reception offered at the official residence, U.S. Ambassador to Spain and Andorra James Costos and his partner Michael S. Smith honored the work of the members of the Spanish LGBT community and their supporters that helped achieve marriage equality in Spain, and celebrated the United States' joining the family of nations that recognize this right. On the day of the reception, the Ambassador flew the LGBT rainbow flag over the Embassy and his residence in a tribute to the values of diversity and tolerance held by the U.S. and Spain and our mutual successes in supporting fundamental human rights.

Guests invited to the reception included those at the vanguard of supporting Spain's LGBT communities: former President of the Spanish Government Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero; Judge of the National Court Fernando Grande-Marlaska and his husband Gorka Arotz; Javier Gomez and Manuel Rodenas, who were married by Alberto Ruiz-Gallardón; and Emilio Menéndez Menéndez and Stan Carlos Baturín, the first gay couple to be married in Spain, among others.

During the event, Ambassador James Costos noted that, "As we celebrate with pride all that we have achieved for our countries – the openness, the tolerance, the understanding – let us not forget that the struggle for human rights does not end with legislation or a court decision. It begins there. Last week's Supreme Court decision in the United States showed that in the end, with patience, openness, forgiveness, and generosity of spirit, LOVE WINS."



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